

Mary began working for Nishna Productions when she was 19 years old, serving as Activity Coordinator and as direct care staff. Mary helped her Nishna Productions clients learn how to cook, clean, and manage money. Mary then became a supervisor at the group homes in Red Oak where she led the staff and continued to work in direct care with the clients. Mary's help growing the skills of her clients ensured that individuals with disabilities can retain independence and find success living in their communities.

Mary then transferred back to work as a Program Instructor with Nishna Productions. Working directly with clients, Mary began to teach classes developing important life skills. From there, Mary transferred to the vocational department to focus on the development of employable skills. Nishna Productions has its own laundry service in which clients can develop working skills, while Nishna Productions also contracts with small businesses to fulfill their basic labor needs. By supporting individuals with disabilities in a comfortable environment, Mary has helped grow confidence with those who need it the most.

Currently, Mary is the lead supervisory staff member at Nishna Production's Red Oak and Shenandoah sites. While she now leads over-all day to day operations, Mary still finds the most enjoyment in direct work with clients. Mary believes that each client is their own unique person and that a one size fits all approach would be ineffective. Providing unique care for each client takes a full team effort, and Mary and her team at Nishna Productions remain committed to tailoring their programming and operations to fit each individual person and the needs of the community.

I am thankful to Mary for her work empowering individuals with support and opportunity to meet their goals, and I am proud to name Mary Wade as Iowan of the Week.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN GRAHAM

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate United States Marine Corps Second Lieutenant John Graham, who recently completed USMC Officer Candidate School at Quantico, Virginia. John was an exceptional member of my staff for the past two years before leaving for Quantico. While we were sad when he departed, we were extremely proud he was going to become a Marine Corps officer. We always want to support our United States Marine Corps and we know that John will be upholding their finest traditions.

HONORING STEVEN METLER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Steven Metler

in recognition of his dedicated service as a Constituent Service Representative in my Vallejo District Office.

Mr. Metler was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in American Canyon. He attended Solano Community College before enrolling in California State University, Sacramento, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government in 2016. It was also during this time that he trained in German and spent six months at the Europa-Universität Flensburg studying International Political Economy.

After gaining valuable experience in the customer service industry, and rising to Department Manager of the Napa Walmart, Mr. Metler began his career in public service as an intern in my Napa district office. In this role, Mr. Metler communicated with constituents, helped organize and execute our events, and supported district staff with numerous state and national issues.

In 2020, he joined the staff of Assembly member Cecilia Aguiar Curry as a Field Representative where he liaised with government agencies and continued to assist the people of Napa. Mr. Metler served as a substitute teacher with the Napa Unified School District before he rejoined our team as a Constituent Service Representative in our Napa District Office before transferring to our Vallejo District Office.

As a Constituent Service Representative, Mr. Metler has successfully assisted with over 230 constituent requests ranging from wildfire assistance to passport applications. He has routinely gone above and beyond in his duties, ensuring that our events are well executed and that no constituent is left without the support they deserve. Because of his dedication, Mr. Metler recently won our casework hero award which honors the staff person in our district offices who did the most outstanding job with casework that quarter.

Madam Speaker, we thank Mr. Metler for his hard work, enthusiasm and enduring commitment to the people of California's 5th District. He has been an exemplary member of our staff and a valuable asset to his community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF GREGORY D. COUNTRYMAN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated husband and father, trailblazing Law Enforcement Officer and public servant, Sheriff Gregory D. Countryman. Sheriff Countryman was honored as the Community Service Person of the Year by the Controllers Civic and Social Club in Columbus, Georgia on December 3, 2022.

Born in Plains, Georgia, Countryman's family moved to Columbus, Georgia when his father was assigned to Fort Benning. He is a product of the Muscogee County School System, graduating from Baker High School in 1984. Although he struggled in his early life to overcome a learning disability, this challenge did not deter him from seeking higher education. He would go on to earn an impressive collection of degrees, including an Associate's

Degree from Georgia Military College; a Bachelor of Science Degree from Troy State University; a Master of Public Administration Degree from Columbus State University; a Master of Arts in Practical Theology from Ohio Christian University and, finally, a Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Counseling from Saint Thomas Christian University.

Countryman has been a dedicated public servant who has consistently gone above and beyond for the people of the Chattahoochee Valley region. He has dutifully served his community for thirty years as a highly respected law enforcement professional. As a Deputy in the Muscogee County Sheriffs Department, he served in the bureaus of Field services, Court Services, and the Fugitives and Jail Divisions. In 2004, he was elected to serve as the Marshal of Muscogee County, and he would go on to serve three terms.

As Marshal, Countryman was a visionary leader for law enforcement officials in Muscogee County and the state of Georgia. Desiring to improve public safety services beyond his community, he founded the Georgia Marshal Training Network, a non-profit organization to provide education and training to Marshals across the state and served as president of the organization. He believes that education is the passport to the future, and the future belongs to those who prepare for it today. With that vision in mind, he created the Junior Marshal Program for Middle School students which mentored and instilled within them the essential values of citizenship, leadership, education, fun, and teamwork. Since 2005, the Junior Marshal Program worked with nearly 2,000 young people, building lasting relationships between law enforcement and future generations, and making Muscogee County a safer place to live.

In 2020, Marshal Gregory Countryman made history by becoming the first African American to be elected Sheriff of Muscogee County, Georgia. After serving his community faithfully and effectively for over two decades, the people of Muscogee elected him sheriff with nearly 75 percent of the vote, demonstrating great trust in his ability to fairly enforce the laws and make our community safer.

It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Sheriff Countryman has paid his rent and he has paid it well. In addition to serving as the top law enforcement official for the second largest city in the state, he has given dedicated service to various organizations in his community to include Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc.; Electric City Masonic Lodge No. 322; the Georgia Marshal Training Network; American Legion 267 (SAL Member); the Fraternal Order of Police; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives; the Police Benevolent Association and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

Knowing that public safety is a crucial and everchanging field, Sheriff Countryman has not rested on his laurels and has always tried to stay on the cutting edge of Law Enforcement Training and initiatives. He is a graduate of the Georgia Regional Command College Class No. 26, attended the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar (L.E.E.D.S) training, and served as a former Assistant Adjunct Professor at Georgia Military College where he helped effectively train new prospective recruits in the field of law enforcement.